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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0226
INFO RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 0240
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AHAMADINEJAD'S VISIT TO BRAZIL

"Lula Scores Against Himself"

Editorial in center-right O Estado de S.Paulo (11-25) notes:
"[Iran's President] did not provide the slightest sign in any of his public statements or signed documents....that his host President Lula could evoke as evidence that he did the right thing in inviting Ahmadinejad....[who] did not give up in anything.....The world does not distrust Brazil's intentions [regarding the use of nuclear energy]. But Iran's credibility is nil.....There is no reason to think that this will change due to Lula's requests....The GOB's triumphant fantasies about its ability to influence major global issues....has led the president to open his arms to Ahmadinejad. More than a useless initiative, [the invitation] was a self-inflicted setback. As Lula would say, a score against itself."

"Balanced Reception"

Editorial in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (11-25) states:"....[In 10 days Brazil received three of the primary Middle East leaders]. President Lula's challenge was to deal with these players in a historical conflict..... [in a balanced way.] This balance of interests and values was achieved this time.....[Lula's administration usually fails in] saying the right things, at the right moment, in right place and through the right diplomatic channels....Fortunately, this mistake was not repeated in Ahmadinejad's visit to Brasilia.....It is through the example of peaceful sociability between citizens from different ethnicities and religions - and through the repudiation of interventionism - that Brazil may have a positive influence, even if moderate, in the bloody chess game of the Middle East."
White